

‘PR system a threat to democracy’

Says Rizvi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday said local leadership will not develop if elections are held under the Proportional Representation (PR) system.

“If elections are held under the PR system, the preferred candidate in the parliamentary constituency will not be able to become an MP. People will not be able to vote for their preferred candidate,” he said at a programme in Rangpur.

Rizvi said under the PR system, the party, not the people, will choose MPs, which will pave the way for authoritarianism.

“Today, various things are being brought forward — proportional voting. Why proportional voting? This will block the path to developing local leadership. If someone becomes a leader by staying in an area for a long time and maintaining contact with the people, even they could be excluded based on party decisions. This

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TAVELLA MURDER 3 get life term, 4 acquitted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced three people to life imprisonment for the 2015 murder of Italian national Cesare Tavella in the capital's Gulshan diplomatic zone.

The convicts — Tamjid Ahmed Rubel alias “Mobile” Rubel, Russell Chowdhury alias “Bhagne” Russell, and Minhajul Arefin — were also fined Tk 50,000 each. In default of payment, they will serve one additional year in jail.

Judge Sheikh Samidul Islam of the Third Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court delivered the verdict in the presence of five of the accused.

The court acquitted four others — BNP leader MA Quayum, his brother Abdul Matin, Shakhawat Hossain Sharif, and Sohel alias “Bhangari” Sohel.

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With no designated waiting area nearby, guardians sit on the staircase of the Farmgate Metro Rail Station in the capital yesterday, waiting for their children to finish the HSC exams at nearby centres. The photo was taken around 12:45pm.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Dengue cases see sharp rise in early July

Over 1,160 hospitalised in first 3 days, total cases cross 11,000

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 1,160 dengue patients were hospitalised in the first three days of July, compared to a total of 5,951 cases in June, painting an alarming picture of the outbreak.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), one more dengue patient died and 358 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till yesterday morning.

With the latest deaths and cases, the total number of dengue infections this year has reached 11,456, while the death toll stands at 45, DGHS data shows.

Amid the rising numbers, Prof Dr Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the chief adviser for health ministry, warned that the situation could become more difficult if cases continue to rise.

He said the situation is still under control and the government is prepared to respond.

Dr Rahman made the remarks yesterday after a ceremony at the Directorate General of Health Services in Mohakhali, where China handed over a batch of “Dengue Combined Kits”.

“In identified hotspots, we are providing all kinds of support. We are ready, but if dengue spreads further, it may become more challenging. If people follow our advice, the situation will remain manageable,” he said.

Experts have stressed the need for immediate action nationwide,

especially outside Dhaka, to curb the spread of Aedes mosquitoes, the dengue vector.

Entomologist Prof Kabirul Bashar said the government must prioritise larviciding and eliminating breeding grounds over general fogging, which he termed largely ineffective.



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Prof Dr Sayedur Rahman

“Fogging should only be done in confirmed hotspot areas. The continued reliance on it is misguided,” he said.

He recommended using Insect Growth Regulators (IGRs), which are effective for up to three months, alongside larvicides. He

also urged people to clean and overturn water containers to prevent breeding.

Bashar emphasised the importance of public awareness. “Without community-level efforts to destroy breeding sites, dengue cannot be controlled,” he said.

Warning that all 64 districts could face worse outbreaks than in previous years, Bashar said Aedes mosquitoes are now present across the country.

He called on the local government ministry to direct deputy commissioners, municipalities, and city corporations to urgently destroy mosquito larvae and breeding sites.

He also urged the ministry to supply IGRs or allow local bodies to procure and use them with proper guidance.

Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman echoed these concerns, saying the rapid growth of the Aedes population is driving a sharp rise in cases. “Once infected, mosquitoes can lay infected eggs, further worsening the outbreak,” he said.

He called for a dedicated vector control department to scientifically manage mosquito-borne diseases. “Such a department should handle cluster identification, surveillance, and targeted interventions. Without a structured approach, current efforts will fall short,” he warned.

‘TK 270CR SCAM’ ACC sues Saiful Alam, PK Halder, 13 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has filed three separate cases against 15 individuals, including S Alam Group Chairman Mohammad Saiful Alam and Proshanta Kumar Halder, former managing director of Reliance Finance Limited (now Aviva Finance), over the alleged embezzlement and laundering of approximately Tk 270 crore from non-bank financial institutions.

The cases were filed yesterday with the ACC's Integrated District Office in Dhaka, said ACC Director General Akhter Hossain.

He said, “The accused, in collusion with each other, created fake documents in the name of non-existent companies and misused their authority to secure huge loans, which were then embezzled and laundered through different channels before being transferred to companies owned by the S Alam Group.”

According to the first case, a loan of Tk 32.5 crore was approved in the name of M/S Mostafa & Co. The funds were later transferred to the accounts of Marine Vegetable Oils Ltd and S Alam Super Edible Oil Ltd.

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Yunus urges Japan to enhance support in key sectors

BSS, Dhaka

JICA is focusing on supporting reforms in Bangladesh's judiciary, public administration, local government, and health sector as the country prepares for its graduation from LDC status in 2026.

Miyazaki Katsura, executive senior vice president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, said this at a meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the state guest house Jamuna in the capital yesterday.

At the meeting, Yunus urged Japan to further strengthen its cooperation with Bangladesh in areas such as investment, fisheries, the Rohingya humanitarian response, and youth development, including education and sports.

“Japan has always been a trusted friend. I recently visited your country, and I was deeply touched by the warmth and hospitality extended to me and my delegation,” said Prof Yunus.

Miyazaki noted that Bangladesh remains one

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Dhaka to continue efforts for Hasina's extradition: Touhid

UNB, Dhaka



Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain yesterday said the government would continue to pursue the extradition of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who has reportedly been in India since August 5 last year.

“I don't know who regrets how much, but we see the matter this way — if necessary, the matter will be followed up,” he told reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs when asked whether there was any regret over the government's failure to bring Hasina back nearly a year after the formal request.

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JULY CHANKHARPOOL CASE ICT to decide on charge framing on July 14

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday set July 14 to decide whether charges will be framed against eight accused in a case filed over crimes against humanity in the capital's Chankharpool during the July uprising.

On that day, the three-member tribunal will also decide whether to discharge the accused, as defence lawyers have pleaded for their release, claiming the charges are baseless.

The prosecution argued that the accused were involved in the killing of six people on August 5 last year and that charges should be framed against them.

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A wheel of an SUV got stuck in an open manhole on the capital's busy Kakrail Road yesterday and was freed after a half-hour effort. Locals said the manhole had been left uncovered for the past three days, posing a serious risk of accidents. However, the authorities concerned have not taken any visible steps to this effect so far.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Bank Asia

Credit Rating of Bank Asia PLC.

This is for information of all concerned that Credit Rating Information and Services Limited (CRISL) rated Bank Asia PLC. **AA+** for long term and **ST-1** for short term based on the financials of 2024. The rating will remain valid up to 01 July 2026.

The information will also be available on the website of the Bank at www.bankasia-bd.com

Ratings

2025

Long Term

AA+

Short Term

ST-1

AA+ : High quality, higher safety and sound credit profile with modest risk

ST-1 : Highest certainty of timely payment of obligations and very strong liquidity

Bank Asia PLC.
Corporate Office

Dated: 03 July 2025
Dhaka

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